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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,**

**Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

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**FOR THE YEAR 1944.**

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Together with the Summary of Work  
of the Sanitary Inspector.



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T. Bakewell, Printer, Main Street, Keswick.

# Keswick Urban District Council

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1944, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health dated 16th February, 1940, and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received July, 1945, as directed.

War-time duties and responsibilities were again carried out loyally by members of the Council and its officials and voluntary workers throughout the district.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres) 1,272.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1944), 4,869  
(see page 5)

Number of inhabited houses (end 1944), according to Rate Books,  
Rateable Value, £35,125.

Sum represented by Penny Rate, £142 3s. 11d.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	61	28	33	} Live Birth Rate (R.G.), 13.5
Legitimate	5	1	4	
Illegitimate				
Still Births	0	0	0	} Still Birth Rate per 1,000
				total (live and still( Births, nil.
Deaths	62	24	38	Crude Death Rate
				(R.G.) 12.7 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.

### Maternal Mortality.—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Childbirth) :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	0	nil.
Total	0	nil.

### Infantile Mortality.—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	1
Death Rate „ „ „ „ (approx) :—					
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	15
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	nil.
Illegitimate „ illegitimate „	...	...	...	...	200
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	0
„ Cancer	...	...	...	...	9

# KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT.

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1944.

The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 1,272. Social conditions and local industries remain as hitherto.

Meteorological Conditions.—These are shown in a report by Mr. Tom Wilson, Official Observer to the Meteorological Office and Air Ministry, and given at the end of this report.

### POPULATION

For 1944, the figure given for the resident population of the district by the Registrar General is 4,869, on which the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based. (N.B.—Figures relating to non-civilians are excluded.)

(The figure for 1943 was 5,278.)

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In the Keswick Urban District, which is included in the Mid-Cumberland Guardians' area, the number of persons in receipts of out-door relief was 16, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 304 of the population, as compared with 1 in 195 in 1943.

One person was admitted to Public Assistance Hospital from this district during the year, giving a proportion of 1 in 4,869 of the population, as compared with 1 in 1,319 in 1943.

Comparisons with 1943 :—

	Out-door Relief	Indoor Relief
Keswick U.D., 1944	16	1
1943	27	4

### VITAL STATISTICS—BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS.—There were 66 Live Births (29 males and 37 females) registered as belonging to the district; of these 5 (1 male and 4 females) were illegitimate.

The Live Birth Rate was accordingly 13.5 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 10.2 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Birth Rates, 1944—Cumberland	19.7
Rural Districts of Cumberland...	19.3
Urban Districts of Cumberland .	20.3
England and Wales ... ..	17.6
Keswick Urban District ...	13.5

The percentage of Illegitimate Live Births was 7.5, as compared with 12.9 in 1943.



## CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1944

CAUSES OF DEATH.						Males		Females	
ALL CAUSES						...	24	...	38
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever					...	...	...	
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever					...	...	...	
3.	Scarlet Fever					...	...	...	
4.	Whooping-cough					...	...	...	
5.	Diphtheria					...	...	...	
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System					...	...	...	1
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis					...	...	...	
8.	Syphilitic diseases					...	...	...	
9.	Influenza					...	...	...	
10.	Measles					...	...	...	
11.	Ac : Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis					...	...	...	
12.	Ac : inf : encephalitis					...	...	...	
13.	Cancer of buc : cav : and oesoph : (M.) Uterus (F).					...	...	...	1
14.	,, stomach and duodenum					...	3	...	2
15.	,, breast					...	...	...	
16.	,, all other sites					...	1	...	2
17.	Diabetes					...	...	...	3
18.	Intra-cran : vase : lesions					...	5	...	6
19.	Heart Dis : ...					...	8	...	8
20.	Other Dis : of circulatory system					...	1	...	
21.	Bronchitis					...	...	...	
22.	Pneumonia (all forms)					...	...	...	
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases					...	1	...	
24.	Ulcer : of stomach or duodenum					...	...	...	1
25.	Diarrhœa under 2 years					...	...	...	
26.	Appendicitis					...	...	...	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases					...	...	...	1
28.	Nephritis					...	1	...	5
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion : sepsis					...	...	...	
30.	Other Maternal Causes					...	...	...	
31.	Premature Birth					...	...	...	
32.	Congen : malform : birth inj : infant dis.					...	...	...	
33.	Suicide					...	...	...	
34.	Road Traffic acc : ...					...	...	...	
35.	Other violent causes					...	1	...	1
36.	All other causes					...	3	...	6
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total						...	...	...	1
Legitimate						...	...	...	
Illegitimate						...	...	...	1
						Males		Females	
LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL					...	29	...	37
	Legitimate					...	28	...	33
	Illeg'timate					...	1	...	4
STILL BIRTHS	TOTAL					...	...	...	
	Legitimate					...	...	...	
	Illegitimate					...	...	...	
POPULATION (for Births and Deaths)—1944—R.G.						...	...	...	4,869

STILL BIRTHS.—There were no still births registered, so that the still birth rate therefore was nil. per 1,000 of the population, as compared with one still birth and a rate of .18 in 1943. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.50.)

The still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births was also nil., as compared with 18.1 in 1943.

## DEATHS

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Keswick was 62 (1943—86). This gives a crude death rate of 12.7 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 16.2 for the previous year. An Adjusting or Area Comparability Factor has not been provided by the Registrar General for 1944, so the adjusted death rate (which probably would be lower) cannot be given.

Comparisons :—

	Crude
Death Rates, 1944—Cumberland ... ..	12.3
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	12.5
Urban Districts of Cumberland ...	11.9
England and Wales ... ..	11.6
Keswick Urban District ...	12.7

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

There was one death among infants under one year of age, so that the Infantile Mortality Rate was only 15.1 per 1,000 births, as compared with three deaths and a rate of 55.5 in 1943.

This one infant was "found dead" and considered as illegitimate.

The Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births, therefore, and the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate births, were respectively 200 and nil. These latter rates were nil. and 63.8 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1944 :—

Cumberland ... ..	49
Rural Districts of Cumberland ... ..	53
Urban Districts of Cumberland ... ..	43
England and Wales... ..	46
Keswick Urban District (approx.) ...	15

## SENILE DEATH RATE

37 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile Death Rate of 59.6 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 62.7 for 1943.

Out of the total 37 deaths :—

7 (4 m. 3 f.)	persons died between the ages of 65 and 70 years
7 (4 m. 3 f.)	" " " " 70 and 75 years
13 (3 m. 10 f.)	" " " " 75 and 80 years
4 (1 m. 3 f.)	" " " " 80 and 85 years
4 (1 m. 3 f.)	" " " " 85 and 90 years
2 (f.)	" " at ages 91 and 97 years respectively.

## INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year, there were two inquests. Two inquests were held within the district in respect of non-residents. Six deaths were "Uncertified."

No Coroner's certificates were received of cases where post-mortem examination had been made, but no inquest held.



VIOLENCE.—The death rate due to Violence (all forms) was 0.40 per 1,000 of the population in the Keswick Urban District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accident, Other Violence and the Total Violence Deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates from each per 1,000 of the population :—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Acc.		Other Violence excluding Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943
Deaths ...	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	2	3	2	3
% of all causes	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	3.22	3.48	3.22	3.48
Death Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	.40	.56	.40	.56

The two violence deaths during the year include 1 due to coal gas poisoning and the other due to suffocation (an infant found dead and abandoned).

## CANCER

Cancer proved fatal in 9 cases, as follows :—

System	Primary Organ	Males	Females	Years
Alimentary	Stomach	2	3	61, 61, 73, 73, 82
	Bowel		1	76
	Caecum		1	66
Glandular	Lachrymal	1		61
Reproductive	Uterus		1	76
Totals	...	3	6	

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 1.8 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 2.2 in 1943.

Approximately out of every 7 deaths of persons belonging to this district 1 was due to cancer.

## TUBERCULOSIS

(Vide also page 13).

There was one death due to Tuberculosis :—

	Males	Females
Respiratory System ...	0	1
Non-Pulmonary ...	0	0

This case had been notified in this district the year before.

The Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate therefore was .20 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.75 for 1943.

The death rate for Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System is, also, 0.20 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.18 for 1943.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Parttime Medical Officer of Health.
2. One Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Jenkins, who is also the Surveyor and Water Engineer, is a Fellow of the Chartered Surveyors' Institute (by examination), and possesses the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate and the Special Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Miss J. Dover has continued to act as temporary clerk in the Surveyor's office.

### LABORATORY WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with the investigations of certain cases of illness during the year 1944 :—

Material	Examination for :	Result :	
		Pos.	Neg.
Throat or Nose Swabs	Diphtheria Bac.	0	6
Ditto	Streptoc. (Haemolyt)	3	6
Sputum	Tubercle Bac.	1	9
Skin and Muscle	Trichina	0	1

Speaking generally, other particulars relating to Health Services (e.g. Hospitals, Nursing, Maternity, Ambulance Facilities, etc.), remained unchanged.

. . . . .

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY.

Installation of the chlorination plant (of Messrs. Wallace and Tiernan) was completed and put into operation during the year : otherwise there is no change to report.

The high purity of the town's water supply was maintained as indicated in the results of examination of three samples taken throughout the year.

WATER MAINS.—The Surveyor informs me there were no extensions or work of major importance during 1944.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No sewer extensions were carried out in 1944. The Surveyor informs me the sewage effluent from the Outfall Works continued to be satisfactory. The sludge was extensively used by farmers and the local Allotment and Gardeners' Association.

Closet Accommodation.—Unchanged.

## SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE

The method of scavenging and removal of refuse proceeds as formerly.

Authority was obtained by the Council to acquire a new up-to-date motor vehicle for the collection and removal of refuse. An order for purchase was placed but the vehicle had not arrived by the end of the year.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The sanitary inspection of the district is undertaken by Mr. J. Jenkins, who is also the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer. It is again a pleasure to record my appreciation of his ever-willing co-operation, and I gratefully acknowledge his assistance in the making of this report.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926.

Premises inspected during the year ...	...	...	...	178
Nuisances or defects discovered	...	...	...	164
Do. do. remedied after informal notice	...	...	...	141
Do. do. do. statutory do.	...	...	...	11
Housing Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts .				83
Factories Inspections ...	...	...	...	63

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1943, and it will be seen that 23 premises were on the register. 43 inspections by the Sanitary Inspector revealed 10 defects, 9 of which were remedied.

Premises	Number	Inspections	Defects Found	Written Notices	Defects Remedied	Prosecutions
Factories with mech. power	7	35	6	6	6	—
Factories without mechanical power	16	28	4	4	4	—
Other Premises under the Act						
Totals ...	23	63	10	10	10	—

### SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No change. Periodical inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector is the responsible officer under the Act since the County Council delegated its powers to the District Council. Every assistance is afforded to rid premises of the rat menace. The refuse tip continues to be occasionally baited with rat poison ; some excellent results have been achieved.

## HOUSING

Housing conditions relating to working class dwellings show little change. The position regarding renovation and repair work generally remains difficult.

No action was taken under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.

Some preparatory work has taken place with a view to post-war housing.

### HOUSING APPENDIX.

(in accordance with Circular 1728 Ministry of Health, 25th Oct., 1938).



## STATISTICS.

## 1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	58
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	74
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	0
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	0

## 2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	47
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

## 3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—No action taken.

## 4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part iv.—Overcrowding :—No action taken.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## MILK SUPPLY.

There were 6 registered milk-sellers whose premises were within the Urban District, all being producers and retailers. Inspections continue to be made periodically.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers and retailers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were again 8 of such producers and retailers during 1944.

The table below gives the results of 18 samples of milk retailed in the town and taken during 1944 by the Sanitary Inspector, and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Of the 18 samples, 15 were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory in relation to dirt contamination, as follows :—

	Satisfactory according to Accredited Standards	Unsatisfactory according to Accredited Standards	Total
Samples produced in Urban District	8	1	9
„ „ outside „	7	2	9
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 18

The 3 unsatisfactory samples failed to pass both the Methylene Blue Reduction and the B. Coli tests.

All samples tested for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli proved negative (the same as in 1943).

On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, investigation is made by veterinary officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. I am kindly informed by Mr. John Reid, Divisional Inspector of that Authority, that in so far as the Urban District of Keswick was concerned, one cow (in milk) was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, during the year under review, the type of disease found at Post Mortem being Tuberculosis with chronic cough, and showing definite clinical signs.

The only milk (Accredited) under "Special Designation" produced in the Keswick Urban District was by Mr. Martin Raven, High Hill Farm, who is also a large retailer.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—No change from the preceding year.

The following is a summary of meat condemned (owing to disease or putrefaction, etc.), together with other foods for which condemnation certificates were issued by the Sanitary Inspector :—

2 Bovine carcasses with organs ; in addition, 3 fore- and 2 hind-quarters of beef, 5½ sets of tripe and feet, 3½ sets of lungs, 196 livers and 112 part livers, 1 heart and 13 udders.

3 Sheep carcasses with organs ; in addition, 1 hind-quarter, 3 legs of mutton, 1 breast, 20 plucks and 212 livers.

1 Pig carcase with organs ; in addition, 1 pluck and 51 lbs. of bacon.

53 st. Fish (including 39 st. kippers in boxes).

4 qts. Shrimps.

8 lbs. Butter, 17 tins Milk (dried and evaporated) and 7 lbs. Margarine.

A quantity of other foodstuffs, including 77 tins Pork and Beans, 4 tins Luncheon Pork (24 lbs.), 3 tins Chopped Ham (3½ lbs.), 4 tins, etc., Meat (23 lbs., including Pressed Beef, Veal and Tongue, etc.), 10 tins (varying sizes) Fish (Sardines, Herring, etc.), 13 tins (varying sizes) Vegetables, 3 tins Fruit, 13 nets Parsley (2) and Leeks (9), 47 crates Cabbages, 195 loaves (2 lb.) Bread, 26 tins of "Pudding," and 4 tins other food.

BAKEHOUSES.—Six were still in existence ; they were periodically inspected and generally found in a cleanly condition, though one informal notice was necessary and was immediately complied with.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1944 in the Keswick Urban District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, was 13. Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough (vide post) the number was 4 (the figure in 1943 being 17). Three of these were notifications of Tuberculosis.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1944.

Disease				Total cases notified	Cases notified	Deaths
					1944 admitted to Hospital	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	Age, 55 years	0
Measles	...	...	...	6		0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	3	Ages, 1-2 yrs. 1 ; 5-10 yrs. 4 ; 10-15 yrs. 1.	0
				Ages, 4-5 yrs. 1 ; 5-10 yrs. 2.		
Tuberculosis :—						
Pulmonary	{ Males			2	1 (San.)	0
	{ Females			1	1 "	0
Non-Pulmonary	{ Males			0	0	0
	{ Females			0	0	0



Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable Diseases, 1944:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Pneumonia ...											1		1
Measles ...												6	6
Whooping Cough												3	3
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary... 1						1						1	3
Other Forms.													0

From notifications received it is deducted that approximately one in every 1,217 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chicken-pox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and the Tuberculosis Regulations. (Last year's figure, 1 in 310 and in 1928 it was 1 in 177).

No case of Scarlet Fever was notified in 1944, so that the case rate and death rate per 1,000 of the population were both nil., these rates for England and Wales being 2.40 and .00.

There were, also, no notifications of Diphtheria (i.e. none since the year 1942). The case rate and death rate of this disease, therefore, were each nil. per 1,000 of the population, those for England and Wales being respectively 0.58 and .02.

The campaign of immunisation against Diphtheria was continued as before. By the end of 1944 in this district it was estimated that approximately 90 per cent. of children under 15 years of age received the two immunising doses of A.P.T. (Alum precipitated toxoid) as sponsored by the M. of Health. In splitting up the children immunised under 15 years into two age groups the figures work out as follows :—Under 5 years 79 per cent., and 5 to 15 years 93 per cent.

(N.B.—Infants under one year of age are not inoculated).

I have again had the welcome co-operation of the local medical practitioners, head teachers, and particularly that of the County Health Visitor, Miss Lawson.

As in the previous thirteen years, no case of Puerperal Pyrexia was recorded. The case rate for this disease (including Puerperal Fever) is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate is :—Puerperal Pyrexia, nil. per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births) registered during the year. The corresponding rate (1944) for England and Wales was 10.34. Again no maternal deaths occurred—corresponding, therefore, to a Maternal Mortality Rate of nil. per 1,000 total (live and still,) births, the same as in 1943.

**PNEUMONIA.**—One notification was received. There were not any deaths registered from Pneumonia (all forms).

There were no notifications of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, and, similar to the previous year, there were none of Typhoid (including Para-typhoid) Fever, Poliomyelitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations three cases (2 m. 1 f.) of Pulmonary were notified, but none of other Forms of Tuberculosis. All three cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, as were also 2 cases (both male) notified in the previous year.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1944 :—

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 —& upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 7.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1944, was as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	18	4	22
Non-pulmonary	3	6	9
All Cases .	21	10	31

No action has been required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, and in an infectious state, and employed in connection with a dairy or the handling of milk or milk vessels.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

**NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was, again, not markedly prevalent, and no death was attributed to this disease, so that the influenza death rate was nil. per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1 death and a rate of .18 in 1943. (The rate, 1944, for England and Wales, was .12.)

**Re Measles and Whooping Cough** (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939).—There were 6 cases of Measles notified (in December), whilst three Whooping Cough notifications were received (also in December).

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notifications) were respectively 1.2 and .61 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 4.16 and 2.49 for all England and Wales.

No death occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough (as in the previous year), so that the death rates were nil. per 1,000 of the population, as compared with .01 and .03 respectively, for England and Wales, 1944.

There were no school closures due to epidemic disease during the year.

## METEOROLOGICAL STATION

Height above sea level, 254 ft. Lat. 54° 36' N. Long. 3° 9' W.

## RETURNS FOR 1944

MONTH	RAINFALL				SUNSHINE			
	AMOUNT Inches	Days	Greatest on one day	Fall on one day	Average 42 years	AMOUNT HOURS	Average DAYS	Average 42 years
January ...	8.54	on	26...	1.11 on	12th...	6.36	... 17.8	on 7... 34.2
February...	2.50	,,	15...	.38 ,,	26th...	4.55	... 60.2	,, 15... 53.3
March .....	.69	,,	7...	.34 ,,	18th...	3.91	...117.3	,, 25... 99.9
April .....	2.94	,,	15...	1.52 ,,	19th...	2.97	...108.7	,, 22... 128.2
May.....	3.00	,,	15...	.40 ,,	4th...	3.23	...142.3	,, 24... 177.1
June .....	5.91	,,	20...	1.27 ,,	3rd...	3.18	...133.9	,, 23... 182.0
July .....	2.72	,,	21...	.46 ,,	2nd...	4.23	... 77.9	,, 21... 157.8
August ....	5.71	,,	15...	1.10 ,,	27th...	5.10	...148.1	,, 24... 138.9
September.	7.55	,,	18...	1.08 ,,	5th...	4.48	... 83.2	,, 17... 120.0
October ...	5.70	,,	21...	1.04 ,,	11th...	6.75	... 51.2	,, 13... 78.3
November	9.20	,,	26...	1.57 ,,	4th...	5.64	... 26.8	,, 15... 27.0
December..	5.90	,,	20...	1.71 ,,	16th...	6.47	... 24.9	,, 15... 26.0
Total ...	60.36	,,	219...		... 56.85	...992.3	,,	221... 1226.7

## TEMPERATURES

Month	HIGHEST MAXIMUM (in screen)	LOWEST MINIMUM (in screen)	LOWEST MINIMUM (on grass)	Nights Frost	Wind at Gale Force	Snow Laying
Jan....	54.0 on	30th...27.0 on	11th...20.0 on	5th...	10	... 2 ...
Feb. ..	55.0 ,,	2nd...22.0 ,,	29th...20.0 ,,	29th...	20	... .. 3
March.	64.0 ,,	27th...23.0 ,,	15th...18.0 ,,	15th...	17	... ..
April .	64.0 ,,	30th...28.0 ,,	1st...21.0 ,,	1st...	4	... ..
May...77.0	,,	30th...35.0 ,,	14 ...28.0 ,,	6th...	2	... ..
		... & 23...	...	...	...	...
June .72.0	,,	22 ...42.0 ,,	8th...36.0 ,,	7th...	...	... ..
		& 23...	...	...	...	...
July ..78.0	,,	17th...48.0 ,,	5th...43.0 ,,	6th...	...	... ..
Aug. ..78.0	,,	1st...41.0 ,,	23rd...34.0 ,,	27th...	...	... ..
Sept. .67.0	,,	15th...33.0 ,,	9 ...28.0 ,,	10th...	3	... ..
			& 10...	...	...	...
Oct. ..60.0	,,	6th...29.0 ,,	2nd...24.0 ,,	2nd...	4	... ..
Nov. .57.0	,,	22nd...25.0 ,,	27th...18.0 ,,	27th...	9	... ..
Dec. ..54.0	,,	1st...25.0 ,,	29th...18.0 ,,	29th...	15	... ..
Total..		...	...	... 84	... 2	... 3

## WIND                      EARTH TEMPERATURES

Month	Calm	North Quad- rant	South Quad- rant	East Quad- rant	West Quad- rant	High- est 1 ft.	Low- est 1 ft.	High- est 4 ft.	Low- est 4 ft.
January .....	5	1	8	1	16	44.5	38.4	44.5	44.0
February .....	11	7	4	1	6	45.5	36.6	45.4	44.8
March .....	15	5	3	3	5	44.1	36.0	44.7	43.9
April .....	13	3	6	3	5	52.4	40.4	47.2	43.7
May.....	10	8	5	2	6	61.0	48.0	50.3	47.4
June .....	12	3	2	3	10	61.5	54.0	54.0	48.0
July.....	17	2	6	4	2	64.0	54.0	56.5	54.0
August .....	14	1	10	3	3	67.3	58.2	58.9	56.5
September....	12	2	2	3	11	57.7	52.1	58.3	55.4
October .....	14	2	7	1	7	52.0	45.3	55.1	51.8
November ...	11	3	4	1	11	47.2	41.5	51.7	47.4
December.....	13	2	5	...	11	45.3	38.3	49.0	46.2
Total.....	147	39	62	25	93				

## ABNORMAL PRECIPITATION

Nov. 2nd and 3rd, 1931,	6.61 inches in 36 hours
November 3rd, 1931,	4.86   ,,
November 12th, 1938,	3.37   ,,
November 4th, 1926,	3.32   ,, in 9½ hours
December 24th, 1925,	3.50   ,,
August 2nd, 1923,	3.00   ,,
July 13th, 1932,	2.56   ,, in 5 hours
December 2nd, 1902,	3.12   ,,

## SUNDRY NOTES

Thunder heard, 6 days  
 Lightning observed, 8 days  
 Thunderstorm with precipitation, 5 days  
 Visibility less than 1,100 yards, 7 days  
 More than 1 inch of rain fell on 11 days  
 Warmest days, 78.0 July 17th, and August 1st  
 Coldest day, 22.0 February 29th  
 Coldest night, 17.0 March 15th



## THE WEATHER OF 1944

The year proved very disappointing, particularly the summer months. The annual average rainfall was exceeded by 4 inches, while bright sunshine showed a marked deficiency, the total being 992.3 hours against an average of 1232.4 hours.

The lack of sunshine was felt by Beekeepers ; as a result there was very little honey ; probably the worst season on record.

Farmers had difficulty in housing grain ; some, alas, was not gathered and it wasted in the fields.

The Lake District has become famous for its weather, due not, so much, to conditions prevailing, as to the vivid imagination and flowery write up of some credulous newspaper reporter, not on the spot.

We find our District mentioned on the air almost in the same breath as conditions (at their worst) on the continent, during a world war. A heavy snowstorm on the higher hills may cause some stream to overflow, even wash a bridge away, but surely this does not mean the Lake District is "under water with raging floods."

A snowstorm may cover hills with snow, in a few hours it is gone, but, alas, we hear of "Blizzards and shepherds tramping in deep snow" to look for sheep, figures are quoted giving the number of days on which rain has fallen, and the amount, but the irony is, the place is not mentioned and the Lake District is given as the scene of the occurrence.

Keswick can rightly be claimed to be in the centre of Lakeland and as your observer it is my duty to record weather each hour of the day, but these wonderful weather happenings (which are of such national importance to be heard on the air) pass our valley, and even though it might rain "cats and dogs" in some fellside hamlet, surely it does not deserve advertising.

The weather is bad enough ; we need not make it worse than it is. Little wonder the year ended with an earthquake. I have not read of any volcanoes bursting into flame—yet. Probably the imaginative weather specialist has succumbed to the torrential rain he advertises.

JANUARY.	Very wet, rain on 26 days, little frost or snow. Gales on 1st and 24th.
FEBRUARY.	Much Colder ; daily average 5 degrees less than January ; a little snow on last few days.
MARCH.	A fine month ; 24 fine days ; month's total rainfall, .69 inches ; 17 nights frost. Sunshine well above average.
APRIL.	Another fine month ; a few frosty mornings ; one really wet day (19th) with 1.52 inches.
MAY.	Rainfall below average ; a good deal of cloud ; rather cool ; some warm days at end of month.
JUNE.	Eight consecutive fine days, the rest were wet ; two days gave us over one inch of rain. Sunshine was much below average.
JULY.	Again eight consecutive fine days ; the rest showery ; a month of much cloud ; less than half the normal sunshine.
AUGUST.	Rain and sunshine about normal, but the month has a bad record.
SEPTEMBER.	Wet and cloudy.
OCTOBER.	Almost normal.
NOVEMBER.	Very wet, with little sunshine.
DECEMBER.	Typical ; hail, sleet, fog, thunder, lightning, heavy rain, frost, and an earthquake at 1-30 a.m. on 30th.

TOM WILSON,

Observer to Meteorological Society.





